

CORN MAZE 2030

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FADE IN:

EXT. CORN MAZE - NIGHT

A strong young man, JESSE (18), wears a VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET and moves easily through the first part of the corn maze. We SEE and HEAR what he sees in the VR Headset with earbuds.

We HEAR his arms brushing up against the corn stalks.

JESSE

Easy start.

Jesse SEES "typical" Corn Maze Employees (4 Extras, various types, dressed as a scarecrow, the Grim Reaper, a sexy farm girl with a knife in her heart, a farmer with a shotgun) jump out and scream at him, but he smiles and keeps walking.

He runs into two dead ends in a row and stops to look around.

He shakes his head in disbelief.

JESSE (CONT'D)

What the hell, Spirit Guide?

The wind picks up and corn stalks all around him CRACKLE.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Aren't the headsets supposed to make this easier?

He HEARS the voice of a calm, sweet, woman, his SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (20s), who comforts him in the speakers in the VR Headset.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

You're doing fine.

Jesse hits a dead end and FEELS the corn stalks with his hands out in front of him.

JESSE

(chuckles)

Spirit Guide? Are you sure you're working with Artificial Intelligence and not Superficial Stupidity, that Mr. Dominic idiot!

He FEELS the corn stalks on the sides of the corridor as he turns around.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
 (sweet but sarcastic)
 You know it's a maze, right?

JESSE
 Yeah, yeah, yeah.

He HEARS the rattle of a rattlesnake in the distance and freezes.

He looks down and all around him in fright.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
 Calm down. That snake is five-point-two meters away.

JESSE
 I never told him about snakes!

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
 That's more than seventeen feet.
 You are free to move on.

The Young Man creeps along but SEES a dead end in the corn maze.

He reaches out to FEEL the corn stalks in front of him, before lowering his head in despair.

JESSE
 Why is this so hard?

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
 (seductively)
 I like men who are hard.

He jumps back a half-step as he SEES a TARANTULA crawling up his pants and swipes it off before turning and leaping down the corridor he just came from.

JESSE
 (angry)
 I hate spiders! I never mentioned that either!

He hits another dead end, FEELS for the corn stocks all around him, then turns to look back to see no way out.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1(V.O.)
 You're doing fine. Feel your way to find an opening. Another corridor.

He turns around, his hands shaking.

He takes two slow steps toward the tarantula. Both of his arms are out as he FEELS and looks for an opening.

He HEARS the rattle of a rattlesnake is louder and the Young Man freezes.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

(calmly)

I didn't know that snake would move in your direction. Still three meters away. Almost ten feet away. I suggest you move on.

JESSE

Spirit Guide, take me back to the trailer. I quit!

(reaches for his VR Headset)

I going to take this stupid Headset off.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

(seductively)

Only losers take their VR Headsets off.

(hypnotic)

You're not a quitter. You're not a quitter.

He throws up his hands in the air to surrender.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

(calmly)

They are swifter than I imagined. The rattlesnake is now...

Jesse puts his arms down and runs down the corridor feeling corn stalks all around now. He's trapped! He leaps through a wall of corn stalks to see an Hispanic man, HECTOR (40s), in a CLOWN COSTUME carrying a shiny MACHETE right in front of him.

Jesse clutches his chest and collapses to the ground and grunts in pain. He has a grand mal seizure.

He stops shaking and can barely move his head. As his eyes adjust, he SEES the Clown standing at his feet, ready to strike with his machete.

Jesse can barely speak.

JESSE

How... did they... know?

Jesse's eyes open widely in fright, but his voice tapers off and he groans.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Clowns!

The last thing Jesse HEARS is the RATTLE of a rattlesnake by his head. The last thing he SEES is the tarantula on his chest.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Two EMTs strap Jesse into a gurney behind an AMBULANCE. He has an IV in his arm but is unconscious. We see the corn maze in the background.

Behind them, a large sign on a shabby trailer reads, "CORN MAZE 2030, The Scariest Corn Maze in the World! Let our Virtual Reality Headsets make it easier on you!"

One of the EMTs waves insincerely to MR. DOMINIC (50s) who wears a black suit, shirt, and shoes. He waves back with the VR Headset. He's defensive and angry.

MR. DOMINIC

He signed a waiver. It's our first night! We're ironing out some bugs.

The EMTs load Jesse into the Ambulance.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

He failed to disclose his medical history of seizures.

One EMT goes around to drive as the other one slams the back door of the ambulance.

Mr. Dominic waves the VR Headset at the Ambulance as it speeds away with LIGHTS and a SIREN.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

(yells)

He was warned! They are all warned!

As the ambulance disappears, a beat-up used sedan pulls into the parking lot in front of the trailer (office).

TRACEY (18) slowly gets out of the passenger door and hesitates walking to the trailer with a slight limp in her right leg.

Tracey has long brunette hair and wears fashionable winter clothes and stylish blue eyeglasses. She turns back to the car with a worried look.

TRACEY

We're going to do this, guys. I need to do something brave for once in my life. This is it! You gotta help me.

Reluctantly, BLAYDEN (18), a big baseball player, swings open his door and steps out of the driver's seat like a field general. He wears a baseball cap and carries a heavy wood bat.

BLAYDEN

We're coming. Riley was counting the money he's loaning me.

The back door of the sedan opens up and a tall, African American-version of Blayden steps out in dressier clothes than Blayden.

RILEY

(to Tracey)

He's your boyfriend! You bankroll him for the corn maze, Tracey!

Tracey laughs and points to the baseball bat.

TRACEY

Blayden, you won't need 'Wonderboy.'

BLAYDEN

I take her everywhere! You know that! I gotta protect you from monsters and shit.

TRACEY

(only partially convincing)

Monsters are shit? You're kidding, right?!

The boys catch up to Tracey as she waits at the closed door to the trailer waiting for Blayden to open it for her.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

The door's locked!

BLAYDEN

We're five minutes early!

After a pause, Riley reaches past Blayden to knock on the door that has a security peephole.

They HEAR the door unlock.

Tracey glares at Blayden and smiles at Riley.

Blayden is perplexed as he follows Tracey in. He tickles her waist to make matters worse. Tracey scowls.

TRACEY
Jesus, Blayden!

Blayden looks clueless.

BLAYDEN
What?
(shrugs)
What?

Mr. Dominic slowly opens the door.

The teens step back.

MR. DOMINIC
I'm Mr. Dominic. The owner-
operator.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic returns to his seat at a small desk behind a BRAND laptop computer. There is an old rumped rug on the floor. He types furiously before greeting his three customers again. A big sign reads, "CORN MAZE 2030."

MR. DOMINIC
Hello. I'm Mr. Dominic. Do you have
a reservation?

The teens are perplexed by the creepy man.

BLAYDEN
Your parking lot is empty...

MR. DOMINIC
(interrupts, smiling)
Because we respect customer privacy
and make hourly reservations!
Please have a seat.

TRACEY
That ambulance we saw...

MR. DOMINIC

A young, fragile boy sprained his ankle.

Mr. Dominic points to a small sign that reads, "No Running."

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

A rare gopher or prairie dog hole, probably. It's safer to walk.

Tracey, Blayden, and Riley nod as if satisfied.

One of the few dim lights in the trailer begins to flicker, and Tracey points to it.

TRACEY

Is that for the Halloween effect?

Mr. Dominic stands and laughs.

MR. DOMINIC

Cheap wiring in the trailer. Our AI server crashes far too often and the VR Headsets sometimes go dark but you get a full refund and a bonus night if that happens.

RILEY

(sarcastic)

I hope mine goes out tonight, especially after driving all this way from the good part of town.

Tracey steps up to confront Mr. Dominic.

TRACEY

Why did we need to fill out a reservation online, and why did the reservation ask so many questions about our fears?

Mr. Dominic points to another sign that reads, "Fear is a private matter." He paces as he talks and speaks confidently.

MR. DOMINIC

Psychologists tell us that fear is very private matter, but the more you disclose your personal fears, the sooner you conquer them.

Tracey, Blayden, and Riley nod as if satisfied.

Mr. Dominic holds up one of three VR Headsets with earbuds on a side table.

The teens' eyes open widely and they smile.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
Our Artificial Intelligent or A.I. algorithms personalize your corn maze experience using your survey responses.

BLAYDEN
Is that why we had to each use our own computers or smartphones to get a reservation?

Mr. Dominic wraps an arm around Blayden's shoulder like an old friend.

MR. DOMINIC
(laughs)
Smart boy. Plus, these VR Headsets are very expensive, so we needed basic information to hunt you down if you walk away with one.

Mr. Dominic points to Blayden's baseball bat.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
And you can leave your baseball bat in the corner there.
(laughs)
It's useless against our virtual demons and monsters.

Blayden puts his bat in the corner of the trailer as he turns around the baseball cap on his head for the VR Headset.

Mr. Dominic points to a map of the property with the parking lot, trailer, and a blurry corn maze.

Riley picks up a VR Headset without asking.

RILEY
How do these things work?

Mr. Dominic turns red with anger and glares at Riley, but controls himself and smiles weakly.

MR. DOMINIC
After filling out a standard waiver and after we borrow your driver's license and smartphones as a deposit to be returned when you finish the maze, I'll give you a brief demonstration and point you to the entrance of the maze.

TRACEY
Do we walk together?

MR. DOMINIC
(laughs)
Good heavens, no! You'll begin ten minutes apart, and the AI will make sure you don't bump into each other.

TRACEY
With GPS, right?

Mr. Dominic moves to put his arm around Tracey, but she moves away.

MR. DOMINIC
Smart girl.

BLAYDEN
I should expect to see lots of Nazis 'cause I said I was afraid of them on my application.

Everyone stares at Blayden with a little pity.

MR. DOMINIC
Maybe a warewolf or witches.

BLAYDEN
(smacks Mr. Dominic on the back.)
Hell, I ain't afraid of warewolfs or witches. Everybody knows they ain't real!

Riley looks away, which Tracey sees.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
Nazi's are real as shit, though!

Mr. Dominic smiles and looks away like he knows something. He speaks in an ominous, low and slow voice.

MR. DOMINIC
I'll bet you're getting anxious to grab your VR Headsets and hop into the scariest corn maze in the world!

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- The teens hand over their driver's licenses.

-- They sign waivers.

-- They put their cell phones in a small lockbox and Blayden removes the key and puts it in his pocket.

-- They try on their VR Headsets and adjust them.

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

We SEE a dark, ominous corn maze. The wind causes the eerie sound of corn stalks brushing against each other.

We see the big boots and legs of Hector sneaking between rows of corn. He's incredibly quiet.

BACK TO:

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic continues his training pointing to a large Server Computer behind him.

MR. DOMINIC

You'll be aided by a personalized "Spirit Guide" who gets to know you better by your reactions to different audio and visual stimuli sent to your VR Headsets from my computer server. Any questions.

RILEY

Does the Spirit Guide warn us of frightening things coming in our direction?

Mr. Dominic smirks.

MR. DOMINIC

If you got warnings, it wouldn't be the scariest corn maze in the world, now would it?

TRACEY

So what does this Spirit Guide do?

Mr. Dominic sounds even more ominous as he ushers them out of the trailer.

MR. DOMINIC

You'll see. I've got to get back to my computer. You should start ten minutes apart so you don't run into each other.

(diabolical laugh)

You might scare each to death!

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Blayden is the first to enter, and he's smirking and over-confident as his VR Headset shows an easy path through the first part of the corn maze. The audio includes cornstalks slightly brushing against each other and melodic katydids.

He yells to his friends.

BLAYDEN

Easy, you guys. Nothing to it!

Blayden's VR Headset flashes him a photo of a beautiful blonde woman in a tank top and shorts before switching back to the dark corn maze. He hears the same sweet, soft voice in his headset, known as Spirit Guide #1.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

Hi, Blayden. I'm your Spirit Guide.

Blayden looks around for the woman but only sees corn.

BLAYDEN

Where are you?

Blayden walks slowly and the corn maze narrows and darkens.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

In your head, of course, but a big strong man like you will hardly need help from me.

The left side of the corn maze corridor MORPHS into the barbed wire fence of a Nazi concentration camp.

Blayden stops and stares past the barbed wire to see images of the old buildings. The audio changes to the sound of women and children screaming inside one of the buildings.

BLAYDEN

Damn them!

Blayden can't turn his eyes away until he bumps hard into a stack of hay bales in front of him.

He looks right and sees a corridor leading away from the concentration camp. He steps quickly to the right but he can still hear the screams of the women and children.

The screams fade as he walks away.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
That wasn't so bad. I think you're
doing great, handsome.

Blayden looks in front of him to see a dead end.

He feels the corn, looking for a way out. He doesn't find one and starts to return toward the screaming women and children.

A BLACK CAT crosses the maze in front of him and he freezes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Tracey enters the corn maze confidently and glances at Riley who shakes his hands nervously. Her limp is barely noticeable.

TRACEY
It's been ten minutes. I can't see
or hear Blayden with this headset
on. I'm going in! See you on the
other side!

Tracey enters and the corn maze is easy at first.

She makes several right choices and moves quickly. Her VR Headset flashes a quick photo of a tan, handsome man (20s) with brunette hair and sky-blue eyeglasses in a sexy bathing suit (SPIRIT GUIDE #2). He carries a textbook on "Psychology."

Tracey stops and spins around, looking for the young man.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
Who's there? Come out!

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
Hello, Tracey. This is your Spirit
Guide. There is no one around you.
You are free to proceed.
(seductively)
You're doing great, by the way.

We see Tracey's VR Headset turn from side to side.

TRACEY
 (mumbles)
 They thought of everything!

Tracey wanders through the corn maze and is unimpressed and unafraid of the typical creatures that seem to jump out of the corn to frighten her.

She SEES a Zombie with a chainsaw, a wart-covered witch, and the Grim Reaper, who try to startle her but don't.

As she limps along, the left side of the corn maze MORPHS into the corridor of a dark and bloody hospital. She hears patients YELLING for help.

Her limp is more noticeable and she pauses to look back, seeing only a hospital corridor as far as her eyes can see.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 You're doing fine. Making good progress. You're not afraid of anything. I admire that.

Tracey turns angry.

TRACEY
 I see what you're doing here! I'm worried about going under the knife next week. Cute! I'm trying to be brave, okay?

She reaches out and feels along the corn stalks until her arms find a corn maze corridor to the right.

She turns and limps a few steps to see herself in the "Surgery Ward" -- another long, overly bright hospital corridor. She can still hear the patients behind her shouting for help.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
 Shit!

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Riley paces nervously up to the maze entrance and then back a few steps. He does this three times before entering the maze, which starts easily at first.

He sees a quick image of a young brunette who looks eerily similar to Tracey, and she speaks in Tracey's soft, sweet voice as his Spirit Guide,

TRACEY (V.O.)
Don't worry, Riley. You'll be fine.
You're braver than you think. I've
got you.

Riley stops and spins around looking for Tracey. He freaks out.

RILEY
Tracey? Is that you?

He keeps spinning and looking for her.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Where the hell are you. Come get
me. We'll walk out together.

TRACEY (V.O.)
(ominous)
I'm afraid it's not that easy.

RILEY
(angry)
I'm fucking out of here! I'm
retracing my steps to the Entrance!

Riley turns and sees a dead end a few feet ahead. He steps towards it anyway.

RILEY (CONT'D)
That wasn't here...

He hears katydids and the wind. Both sounds gradually get louder as he searches hopelessly for the entrance.

He gets stuck walking into several dead ends, and he starts to breathe heavily and pant.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAILER - SAME

Mr. Dominic peeks out of the curtain to see that no one is outside.

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- Mr. Dominic scans the teen's driver's licenses and puts them back exactly where they were on his small desk.

-- He pulls a key from his pocket and ceremoniously opens the lockbox containing the three phones. The key remains in the lock.

-- He hops on his computer that shows perfect photos of the three teens outside his door. He works on one photo at a time in an app that creates a 3-D hologram of Blayden, Tracey, and Riley.

-- He uses the holograms one at a time to open up each of their smartphones with facial recognition.

-- He plugs the phones into cables that download all the information on their phones. His computer reads, "Downloading."

END MONTAGE

Mr. Dominic hears his SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (60s, female) from his computer's speakers. She sounds like a cranky, elderly schoolteacher (60s).

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
It's about time! Finally, new information! This has been like a million dollars waiting on a dime! What took you so long?!

Mr. Dominic looks down as if he's ashamed.

MR. DOMINIC
But, I'm doing this...

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
(meaner)
Yeah! Yeah! For me! I'm sick of you! And I'll tell you another thing...

There is a loud KNOCK at the front door.

Mr. Dominic looks up in fright and yells.

MR. DOMINIC
Just a minute!

He whispers angrily toward his Server Computer as he returns the phones to the lockbox and pocket's the key.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
See what you've done!

Another loud KNOCK on the door.

He puts down the display on his laptop computer.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ (O.S.)
It's Sheriff Alvarez. Open up.

Mr. Dominic quickly covers up the driver's licenses on his desk with his waiver forms as he turns to leap to the door.

He unlocks and answers the door politely.

MR. DOMINIC
Sheriff, won't you come in?

SHERIFF ALVEREZ (50s), a stocky man in full uniform, stomps in and takes off his hat.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
Can I see your business license?

Mr. Dominic acts surprised as he leaps to his desk and digs through the top drawer.

MR. DOMINIC
Is there a problem, Sheriff?

The Sheriff takes out his notebook and looks around the trailer suspiciously, pausing at the sign that reads, "Scariest Corn Maze in the World."

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
I'm following up on a complaint from the hospital. I responded to a call by two angry parents claiming their son was frightened half to death by your corn maze tonight.

Mr. Dominic laughs nervously.

MR. DOMINIC
It's just a little harmless fun at Halloween. Did you ever go through a corn maze when you were young, Sheriff?

The Sheriff looks away.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
The young man's car is in your parking lot. Plates match.
(glares at Mr. Dominic)
Want to tell me what happened?

Mr. Dominic shrugs his shoulders and begins to explain his business practices as the Sheriff examines the business license.

MR. DOMINIC
It's our first night! We're ironing out some bugs.
(MORE)

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

But I assure you, our corn maze is easier than most, aided by Virtual Reality headsets that practically hold your hand through the corn maze...

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

(angry)

The young man is in I.C.U. And he's mumbling incoherently. The ambulance attendants are on another call, but I'll be speaking with them next.

MR. DOMINIC

I assure you, my little corn maze is in no way responsible...

CUT TO:

INT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Blayden struggles to feel his way slowly down another corridor in the corn maze.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

You see? Nothing but corn stalks!
You've got this, sweetie.

BLAYDEN

Kind of you to say...

Blayden's pace slows as he feels people bumping into him trudging in the opposite direction.

He spins around to see a long line of Jewish concentration camp victims marching to the gas chambers. He sees a sign that reads, "Corn Maze Exit, this way!" In the directions of the gas chambers.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

Spirit Guide, take me away from here!

We SEE Blayden alone in a corn maze corridor. His feet are frozen to the ground but his shoulders move like people are still trudging into him from in front of him making him angrier.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

Spirit Guide, do you hear me?

Silence, then we hear katydids and wind.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
 You can't abandon me, Spirit Guide,
 that's the rules of the game!

The Spirit Guide turns seductive.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
 I'd never abandon you, Blayden.
 We're uplinked together now. We'll
 get through this as a couple. An
 inseparable team!

Blayden's VR Headset shifts to a typical corn maze scene with well-lit corridors and soothing sounds of teens giggling and laughing.

Blayden calms down and continues through the corn maze as he hears a calm, hypnotic voice.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
 I knew you could do it, Blayden.
 You're not a quitter. You're not a
 quitter.

CUT TO:

INT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Tracey's VR Headset still shows her in a hospital corridor with the CRIES of patients begging for help coming from the hallway behind her, and the sound of SURGICAL SAWS coming from the rooms in front of her.

Tracey spins and looks behind her, then turns to look forward. She sounds confident, unshaken, and defiant.

TRACEY
 I see what you're doing, Evil
 Spirit Guide. You're trying to use
 your AI imagines as my greatest
 fears.

Suddenly, the hospital corridors slowly fade and MORPH into a typical well-lit corn maze.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 You've got me all wrong. It's just
 a little harmless fun.
 (seductively)
 You like to have fun, don't you,
 Tracey?

Tracey walks slowly through the corn maze, happy to feel cornstalks at her fingertips.

TRACEY

Sure I like to have fun. I'm just trying to figure this experience out.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

Curious and inquisitive. I like that.

TRACEY

There's always a perfectly good scientific explanation for everything.

She continues walking toward a dead end. She is startled when a WART-FACED WITCH crosses her path and disappears.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

See? This is totally expected in a corn maze!

Tracey turns and starts to head back.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

See? You got this, Tracey! We're in this together.

(hypnotic)

You will not quit. You will not fail.

TRACEY

I will not quit. I will not fail.

CUT TO:

INT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Riley remains stuck at a dead end. He hears Tracey's seductive voice.

TRACEY (V.O.)

This is as harmless as one of the video games you play all the time. You got this, Riley.

Riley spins around looking for Tracey.

RILEY

Tracey, where are you? Can't we walk together?

TRACEY (V.O.)

But we are together, Riley. Trust me. I won't let anything bad happen to you.

Riley's VR Headset displays a well-lit corn maze with a long corridor in the opposite direction of the Entrance.

He walks slowly down the long corridor.

RILEY

Together? We're in this together?

Riley keeps walking.

BACK TO:

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff glares at Mr. Dominic, who doesn't flinch.

The Sheriff reaches to the desk to grab a waiver form. As he does, he exposes Riley's driver's license, but only Mr. Dominic sees it.

Mr. Dominic sees the name "Riley Alvarez" and quickly covers it up with blank waiver forms.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

These waivers aren't worth the paper they're printed on.

Mr. Dominic steps between the Sheriff and the other waiver forms.

MR. DOMINIC

Our attorneys say they are iron clad.

The Sheriff pulls out his smartphone and takes several photos of the trailer.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

They have never stood up in courts, especially if there's one ounce of negligence: dim lighting, incomplete warning signage, a slippery corn stalk or two...

Mr. Dominic glances at the one flickering light in the dimly lit trailer, but sounds reassuring as he guides the Sheriff to the door.

MR. DOMINIC

If you'd like to come back with a search warrant, I'd be glad to show you everything we do here to provide a safe, fun experience for children of all ages over the Halloween season.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

Warrant, huh? If that's how you want to play it!

The lights flicker on and off in the trailer, and a warning buzzer sounds on Mr. Dominic's laptop computer.

MR. DOMINIC

You'll have to excuse me, Sheriff, I've got to check on our Server Computer and three customers in the maze. I'm just a simple, small business owner.

Mr. Dominic politely pushes the Sheriff out the door.

The Sheriff turns back to Mr. Dominic with a warning.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

I'm meeting the ambulance crew that was here earlier outside the hospital in ten minutes. I've got a meeting with the young man's parents and the doctor after that. If I think there's anything fishy about your operation, I'll be back with my warrant.

Mr. Dominic waves insincerely and shuts the door.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

(angry)

Your server was going haywire while you were placating that Sheriff, you idiot. No telling what those kids are seeing and hearing!

Mr. Dominic races to his computer.

MR. DOMINIC

I know. I know.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

Well, fix it, or your customers will keep seeing cornstalks, and you'll be out of a job!

Mr. Dominic types furiously on his laptop.

MR. DOMINIC

Something might have gone wrong with that first kid tonight. If that Sheriff comes back with a warrant, we're in big trouble!

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

You mean, you're in big trouble! It was your idea to kill them, steal their identities and family's bank accounts, and move on to the next town.

(diabolical, childlike)

I'm just here to help.

MR. DOMINIC

I never said 'kill them!' If they die, it's their own fault!

INT. CORN MAZE - NIGHT

Blayden walks confidently down a corridor.

BLAYDEN

This got easier than...

Hector (previously a clown) leaps into the maze with farmer overalls and a ski mask on.

Blayden freezes.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

What the hell?

Hector starts up the chainsaw and stomps toward Blayden.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

That doesn't look real...

Hector uses the chainsaw on the cornstalks next to him.

Blayden turns and runs.

Hector follows.

Blayden sees a passageway to the left and takes it. The chainsaw gets louder.

Blayden runs into a dead end with two hay bales in front of him.

He turns to see Hector stomping toward him sawing cornstalks to his left and right as he approaches.

Blayden uses all his strength to climb up the hay bales and over them to another corridor, but he falls flat on his back with a THUD. His VR Headset shakes on his head like a bell.

Blayden jumps up and hears only katydids and wind. He is shocked to see Tracey and Riley clinging to each other in fright.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
What the hell was that?

RILEY
The chainsaw guy looked so real!

TRACEY
I got chased over the same
haystacks a minute ago and saw
Riley collapsed on the ground.

RILEY
(to Tracey)
I got chased over the haystack
right before you and didn't have
time to get up before you fell on
me!

TRACEY
We're supposed to be ten minutes
apart in the maze. Something is
wrong! Boost me up.

Blayden wraps his arms around Tracey and hugs her. But his VR Headset shows Tracey as his blonde Spirit Guide and he starts fondling her in a burst of heated passion.

Tracey sees her handsome bookworm with glasses in her VR Headset and starts to hug Blayden back passionately until she abruptly pushes him away.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
(to Blayden)
What are you thinking?

RILEY
Right! We have to get out of here.

Blayden is still grabbing after Tracey when she pushes his hands away. Tracey whispers, concerned and frightened.

TRACEY

Lift me up so I can peek over the
hay bales!

Blayden and Riley boost Tracey up to peek over the hay bales.

She sees Hector with a chainsaw in his stomach. Blood is
everywhere.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

He's dead!

RILEY

Dead?

BLAYDEN

How?

Tracey sees the cornstalk walls of the maze corridor are
hacked by the chainsaw.

TRACEY

Looks like he was trying to cut his
way out of the maze!

BLAYDEN

We gotta call 9-1-1!

TRACEY

Our phones are in a lockbox in the
trailer. Let me down.

Blayden and Riley let her down.

Tracey yells into her VR Headset.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

Spirit Guide? I quit! Take me out
of here!

Silence.

BLAYDEN

Spirit Guide, I quit too!

RILEY

Me too! Spirit asshole!

Tracey removes her VR Headset. The boys do the same.

Blayden stares at Tracey and touches her brunette hair as if
to see if she's real. He looks around.

TRACEY

Looking for someone else?

Blayden puts his head down.

RILEY

Busted!

Tracey shakes her head in disgust.

TRACEY

Let's find that trailer.

Tracey leads as they trudge away in the dark corn maze.

They reach a dead end.

RILEY

This maze must be huge.

BLAYDEN

We could bust our way through.

TRACEY

What direction? If we pick the wrong way out we could end up in the next county.

They turn back and look for another corridor. We SEE that the power indicator lights on the VR Headsets are still "on." They get angrier as they talk.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

Tell me about your VR experience so far.

BLAYDEN

My Spirit Guide is hot.

RILEY

So is mine.

TRACEY

Do you trust her?

RILEY

The sexy babe?

BLAYDEN

(surprised)
I trust mine!

TRACEY

I see what they did. They created individual spirit guides to our liking.

BLAYDEN

Okay by me.

RILEY

Me too. Mine is hot.

TRACEY

You've seen her.

RILEY

Just flashed by my VR screen.

BLAYDEN

Hey, mine too! A blonde with big...

RILEY

Mine was brunette with big...

TRACEY

Yeah, well mine was a male with glasses.

Blayden and Riley laugh for a moment, but it's interrupted by the sound of a nearby AK-47 BAM BAM BAM.

They all dive to the ground and whisper.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

That wasn't VR!

BLAYDEN

I didn't think the Nazis and the concentration camps were real, but they felt real!

Tracey looks compassionately at Blayden.

TRACEY

You broadcasted to Mr. Dominic that you were afraid of Nazis.

Tracey gets up.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

Come on. We gotta get out of here.

BLAYDEN

To where?

TRACEY
Away from that assault rifle!

They rush down another corridor.

RILEY
How did he know I didn't like being
alone?

TRACEY
(angry)
You told him on your application
that you sit around all day and
play video games!

BLAYDEN
(to Tracey)
What did you see in VR?

TRACEY
Nothing that scared me!

They reach another dead end. Tracey looks around,
disappointed. The boys look worried.

They HEAR the assault rifle BAM BAM BAM.

Blayden charges into the cornfield, crashing through the
stalks and making a lot of noise.

Tracey pulls him back and whispers angrily.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
Trying to give away our location?
Idiot! Follow me and keep quiet!

Tracey leads the boys down another corridor tiptoeing as
quietly as they can.

Tracey relies on instinct, analyzing the footprints and foot
traffic in various corridors, before finally leading the boys
back to the entrance of the maze.

They see the door is open to the trailer.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
We need to report the chainsaw
death!

BEGIN FLASHBACKS

EXT. CORN MAZE - NIGHT

Riley has a quick FLASHBACK of Tracey hanging off the haystack, falling, and him catching her and falling to the ground with Tracey on top of him. He's in heaven for an instant until Blayden falls from the same haystack and interrupts them.

Blayden has a quick FLASHBACK of hugging Tracey's body with the vision of his hot blonde spirit guide in his mind.

END FLASHBACKS

RILEY

But we're coming back to finish the maze, right?!

BLAYDEN

You bet we are! We're not quitters! We gotta play this thing out with our Spirit Guides!

TRACEY

You two are both idiots! We're getting out of here!

Tracey stomps, and the boys trudge, to the open door of the trailer.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Mr. Dominic is smiling behind his desk when the teens walk in.

The teens practically slam their VR Headsets on his desk.

MR. DOMINIC

You barely got started. I know you didn't complete the maze.

Tracey screams at him.

TRACEY

Your Chainsaw Man is dead.

Mr. Dominic stands and points to his computer.

MR. DOMINIC

We had a few technical difficulties with our server beyond our control, but...

TRACEY

Did you hear me? Your Chainsaw Man
is dead! Blood is everywhere. We
have to call 9-1-1!

Mr. Dominic strolls to his open door and smiles as he looks
out to the corn maze.

MR. DOMINIC

I'm sure you're mistaken.

BLAYDEN

We saw him chasing us...

RILEY

Then we had to climb over haystacks
to get away.

Tracey is livid. She paces as she yells.

TRACEY

And I looked over those same
haystacks and saw him! His gut was
ripped in two by the chainsaw! He
must have worked for you!

Mr. Dominic snickers sarcastically.

MR. DOMINIC

Perhaps you'd like to show me where
this happened. I'll even provide
the flashlights.

TRACEY

And we want our phones back in case
of emergency!

Mr. Dominic points to the lockbox.

MR. DOMINIC

One of you has the key, I believe.
I don't.

Blayden steps up.

BLAYDEN

I got it.

Blayden opens the box that looks exactly like he left it, and
hands them out.

Mr. Dominic searches the trailer and finds four small
flashlights with weak beams.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic confidently leads the teens toward the entrance to the corn maze.

MR. DOMINIC

We run a safe and controlled corn maze experience...

TRACEY

Cut the crap, Mr. Dominic. We know what we saw.

Mr. Dominic raises one finger and stops to address the group.

MR. DOMINIC

We had one minor case of a disgruntled neighbor lighting off firecrackers to scare off our patrons...

RILEY

More like an AK-47!

MR. DOMINIC

I didn't hear any such thing tonight. And the walls of my trailer are as thin as cardboard. I'm sure I would have heard...

TRACEY

I heard the assault rifle too!

BLAYDEN

I guess it could have been fireworks.

Tracey and Riley glare at Blayden.

MR. DOMINIC

You see? Probably harmless firecrackers.

Mr. Dominic smiles disingenuously at Tracey.

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

MR. DOMINIC

Would you like to lead us, young lady?

Tracey limps ahead of Mr. Dominic who is followed by Blayden and Riley.

EXT. CORN MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic focuses on Tracey's limp.

MR. DOMINIC

Are you sure you're up to the task?

Tracey turns and glares at Mr. Dominic and everyone freezes.

TRACEY

Mr. Dominic, it's not our sanity
that is being drawn into question
here!

Mr. Dominic points to Tracey's leg.

MR. DOMINIC

I meant your limp.

Tracey shakes her head in disgust.

TRACEY

There is nothing I can't do or
accomplish, Mr. Dominic. As you'll
see!

Tracey spins and limps further into the corn maze.

After a few steps, Blayden stops to feel the corn on the left side of the maze.

BLAYDEN

That's strange!

Everyone stops to stare at Blayden who points his flashlight between stalks of corn. He sounds worried.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

I was 100% sure this was a Nazi
concentration camp!

TRACEY

It was just a little virtual
reality, Blayden. You'll be fine.

Riley chimes in.

RILEY

That's what Spirit Guide said, it
was you, Tracey. I mean exactly
like you!

MR. DOMINIC

I doubt that, son. The AI program is designed to pick the voices for the Spirit Guides randomly from thousands of computer-generated voices in fifteen languages.

Tracey turns and limps away slowly while looking around and thinking.

TRACEY

It's not random that Blayden and Riley got busty bimbos for spirit guides, and I got a bookworm!

Blayden and Riley laugh. Tracey shakes her head in disgust.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

The hay bales are this way.

RILEY

Are you sure? I don't remember turning this way.

Riley HEARS a cat running in the corn maze to his right.

RILEY (CONT'D)

That's the black cat! I'm sure of it.

Everyone ignores Riley and continues on, but Riley is shaken.

BLAYDEN

(laughs)

How are you going to see a black cat in this darkness?

Tracey stops.

TRACEY

This is where I saw a hospital corridor, but I knew it was just the VR trying to scare me. Nice try, Mr...

Tracey sees the bales of hay and scurries to them.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

Lift me up, damn it!

Blayden and Riley push her to the top of the hay bale.

Tracey shines her flashlight at the base of the hay bale and sees nothing.

She points her flashlight all around and turns sad and bewildered.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
No body, no blood, no chainsaw, no
slashed cornstalks...

BLAYDEN
Let me see!

Tracey is helped down. She looks stunned and disoriented.

Riley and Mr. Dominic help Blayden up.

Blayden turns his flashlight to investigate the sides of the corn maze rows. He sees a well-maintained corn maze corridor, with no bloody body, or cut stalks.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
That's impossible! I saw him. I
heard it chopping down cornstalks
like toothpicks.
(beat)
Dude! He was going to kill me.

They help Blayden down.

MR. DOMINIC
How many of you saw the supposed
bloody body?

Tracey looks away as she raises her hand.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
I see.

RILEY
I heard everything.

BLAYDEN
Me too, but Tracey, what Mr.
Dominic is saying is that it might
have been a simple VR clip.

Tracey gets in Blayden's face.

TRACEY
I wasn't wearing the VR Headset
when you boosted me up to see.

RILEY
But it was really dark, and we
didn't have flashlights, remember!

Tracey gets in Riley's face.

TRACEY
You don't believe me either?

RILEY
Hey, I saw a black cat that wasn't there, twice!

BLAYDEN
Maybe Virtual Reality plays tricks on your brain.

Mr. Dominic turns to walk toward the Entrance.

MR. DOMINIC
There you have it.
(laughs)
Or there you don't have it, as the case may be.

Tracey, Blayden, and Riley trudge along behind Mr. Dominic.

TRACEY
I don't believe it! I don't see how...

MR. DOMINIC
Because you didn't finish the maze!

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. CORN MAZE - NIGHT

Blayden is walking along when he SEES his beautiful blonde Spirit Guide. But this time, the vision of the Spirit Guide is in slow motion, and far more sexy and teasing.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
Blayden, it's me, your Spirit Guide. But a big strong man like you will hardly need help from me.
(beat)
Finish the maze with me. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Spirit Guide #1 teases and taunts him further into the maze.

In another corridor, Riley SEES his Spirit Guide who looks like Tracey. And this time, her voice sounds more sexy and teasing.

TRACEY (V.O.)

Don't worry, Riley. You'll be fine.
You're braver than you think. I've
got you.

(beat)

You're braver than you think.
Finish the maze with me. I've got
you. And you've got me...

END FLASHBACK

They reach the entrance and see the trailer in front of them.

TRACEY

I can't go back. I quit. I want to
go home.

Blayden gets in Tracey's face.

BLAYDEN

We gotta finish the maze. We're not
quitters!

Riley races to Tracey too.

RILEY

I'd like to go back and finish the
maze.

Riley looks sadly back at the maze.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I never finish anything. I play the
same video games over and over.

Tracey and Blayden stare at Riley compassionately.

TRACEY

I thought the maze scared you both
half to death.

MR. DOMINIC

Absolutely no refunds.

Blayden confronts Tracey, threatening to grab her arms, but
he doesn't.

BLAYDEN

We've gotta go back! The body and
all that chainsaw blood was all in
your imagination. You were the one
who was scared.

Mr. Dominic smiles.

MR. DOMINIC

The server had a few bugs. It's all fixed.

Mr. Dominic points to his maintenance man, Hector, a small, thin man who doesn't look anything like the big strong chainsaw man. Hector carries a small litter basket and picks up litter in the small parking lot.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

That's Hector, our maintenance man. He and I will be on call if you need us.

The teens stare at the wimpy-looking maintenance man.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

You know, in case of any emergency.

Mr. Dominic waves at Hector. Then the teens wave with weak smiles.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

Hector is a great guy. Unemployed most of the year, so I let him use my trailer in Mexico. He fishes, eats good, and sells his surplus for vegetables, fruit, and Mescal.

BLAYDEN

(pleads to Tracey)

We got our phones back. We can take photos of anything out there.

MR. DOMINIC

There are only cornstalks, I assure you.

RILEY

We can do this.

(looks back at the maze)

I can do this!

Tracey looks at the two boys with some doubt.

TRACEY

Okay, I'll do it.

Blayden hugs and kisses Tracey on the lips, making Riley turn away in jealousy.

BLAYDEN

Okay! Let's do this!

MR. DOMINIC
Better get those VR Headsets on!

They all race into the trailer.

Hector walks around the outside of the trailer where he pulls back a heavy tarp to reveal a clown costume, a chainsaw, and an AK-47.

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Blayden, Riley, and Tracey pace at the entrance to the maze. They can each hear their Spirit Guides in their earbuds, but the others cannot.

Blayden smiles as he listens to his sexy Spirit Guide.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
Come on, baby. Let's go first. Man
up. It will be scary, sexy, and
fun.

Tracey listens to her Spirit Guide who is far more intellectual, but in a sexy way.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
You're smarter now. You know what
VR can do, and what it can't do.
You're the leader of this team.
Let's go first and show them how
it's done.
(laughs)
A little screaming, a little fun.

Tracey finds herself laughing.

Riley, whose legs are twitching a bit, listens into his VR Headset. Tracey's voice is soft and reassuring.

TRACEY (V.O.)
Riley, Riley, Riley. How long have
we known each other? You know I
would never let anything bad happen
to you. It's like one of your video
games, except I'm here to guide
you.

Riley looks in Tracey's direction and smiles. She is oblivious to him, but she's smiling.

TRACEY (V.O.)
We're the experienced team here. We
should go first.
(MORE)

TRACEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 A little scary, and a little fun.
 (sexy)
 Remember when I fell on top of you?

Riley jumps to the entrance of the maze and yells.

RILEY
 We're going first! I mean, I'm
 going first. See you guys at the
 exit!

Riley stomps into the maze.

EXT. CORN MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Riley makes his first right turn in the maze when he hears a sexy voice.

TRACEY (V.O.)
 I'm so proud of you. You're the man
 I knew you could be.

A moment later, Riley hits a dead end. He HEARS a crow caw right above his head and he ducks.

Looking down, he SEES a RAT run by his feet.

He spins and turns back to make a left turn (leading back to the entrance) but it's a solid row of cornstalks now.

RILEY
 What the hell?

He points to where he thought the entrance should be.

RILEY (CONT'D)
 The entrance was a few steps that way. What do I do now, Spirit Guide?

He looks back to the dead end to SEE two RATS walking in his direction. A few more rats join in from the corn field. Then more rats.

TRACEY (V.O.)
 (compassionate)
 What's the matter?

RILEY
 Rats carry rabies, you idiot!

Riley takes off running away from the rats down a long, seemingly endless corridor.

TRACEY (V.O.)
I don't see all the fuss.

RILEY
I hate rats!

TRACEY (V.O.)
I can't exactly turn them into
bunny rabbits!

RILEY
I hate bunnies more. Our pet bunny
bit me when I was five...

Riley trips in a gopher hole and falls flat on his face.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Ow! My ankle!

TRACEY (V.O.)
The sign clearly said 'no running.'

Riley looks behind him to see the rats had changed into evil-looking rabbits.

He forces himself up and limps down the long corridor with the rabbits giving chase.

RILEY
Ow! It hurts! You did this to me,
Tracey! Why? So I could limp around
like you?

TRACEY (V.O.)
Tracey? Who's Tracey?

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - SAME

Tracey and Blayden are both eager to enter the maze.

TRACEY
It's been ten minutes. I'll go
second, in case Riley needs help.

Blayden gets in Tracey's face.

BLAYDEN
I want to go second!

Tracey yells at him.

TRACEY

Too bad. You're going third! That's final! Or we're over! Got it!

Blayden turns away disappointed and angry.

BLAYDEN

Maybe that wouldn't be such a bad thing!

TRACEY

Cram it, Blayden. Wait ten minutes then just try to catch up!

She enters the maze.

EXT. CORN MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Tracey walks easily for the first two turns in the maze.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

I'm so proud of you. You're the woman I knew you could be.

Tracey is suspicious.

TRACEY

Hmmm. Sounds like a programmed response, if you ask me.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

Don't be silly. I'm here for you.

Tracey makes another turn in the maze and HEARS a rattlesnake in the distance.

TRACEY

How would you know...?

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

What are you implying?

TRACEY

The only place I mentioned my fear of rattlesnakes was in my college application essay...

(angry)

You stole it from my computer or my phone!

Silence.

We HEAR the rattlesnake getting closer.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 The majority of people are deathly
 afraid of rattlesnakes, but...

Tracey turns in another direction, but HEARS another
 rattlesnake in the distance.

TRACEY
 You know that caused the nerve
 damage in my ankle.

Tracey reverses course frantically looking for another
 corridor.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 (compassionate)
 Ten years old. At a birthday party.
 Such a shame.

TRACEY
 That's how the VR works! It steals
 information directly from our
 computers during the online
 application process! Then the AI
 uses that information of our
 innermost fears against us in the
 maze with VR!

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 Smart girl!

TRACEY
 I'm a woman.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 (teasing, sexual)
 I can see that. Wow. Is it getting
 hot out here?

TRACEY
 Cut the crap. What if I take my VR
 Headset off, call the cops, and
 march right back to the trailer to
 meet them there?

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 I wouldn't do that if I was you.

TRACEY
 Stop me!

Tracey rips off her VR Headset. She hears someone right
 behind her cocking an AK-47.

She turns to see Hector aiming the AK-47 rifle at her. Hector looks mean and ready to shoot. He wears latex gloves.

HECTOR
I'll take your phone.

Tracey's hand shakes as she hands her phone to Hector.

TRACEY
You'll never get away with this!

HECTOR
Why is that?

TRACEY
Because the Sheriff's son is with us!

Hector laughs and shows Tracey Riley's phone.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
That's...

HECTOR
Now, put on your VR Headset, and do as you're told or you will watch your two friends suffer terribly before they are killed and you will suffer a fate worse than death. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have another phone to retrieve.

Hector motions with his rifle for Tracey to put on her VR Headset.

She shakes out of fear and doesn't mean to hesitate.

Hector fires a few rounds in the air.

Tracey immediately puts on the VR Headset.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
(snickers)
Smart girl.

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - SAME

Blayden paces while glaring at the entrance.

BLAYDEN
I heard shots! Five minutes! Close enough!

He races into the maze and makes a quick turn to the left.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
Great to have you back in action,
sir. I salute your bravery and
fortitude.

BLAYDEN
I've always liked forts.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
You can be so silly, Blayden. I
love that about you.

BLAYDEN
I don't have time to talk, my
friends might be in trouble. I
heard gunshots.

Blayden SEES the slow-motion videos of his beautiful Spirit Guide.

Blayden freezes.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
Wow! Can you show me more of you?

He sees more sexy photos of his blonde Spirit Guide.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
We're not supposed to get too
involved with our customers...

He sees even more photos, and can't seem to move his legs.

BLAYDEN
'Cause my friends might be in
trouble, but it could be their
imaginations, I suppose.

We SEE Blayden standing in the corn maze, frozen and with a big smile.

Hector sneaks up behind Blayden. He SEES Blayden's smartphone hanging out of his back pants pocket.

Hector aims at Blayden with his AK-47, but he SEES Blayden's right hand drop to his crotch as Blayden giggles.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
I've never seen a girl do that!

Hector lowers his rifle, steps up quietly, and removes Blayden's smartphone like a professional pickpocket.

Hector turns and sneaks away shaking his head, while Blayden remains totally distracted.

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Riley is unconscious on the ground but HEARS a screech owl zoom by overhead.

He jumps up and reaches for his phone. He panics.

RILEY

I'm done. I'm getting out of here.

He takes off his VR Headset and leaves it on the ground.

He searches for a way out and wanders aimlessly in the maze with katydids and the wind providing the audio.

He passes by a corridor and is shocked to SEE his VR Headset in front of him.

Riley collapses sadly to the ground.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I'm going in circles.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAILER - SAME

Hector strolls up to the trailer door and knocks a special knock (five knocks, a pause, then two more knocks).

Mr. Dominic races to the door and opens it.

Hector hands Mr. Dominic the teen smartphones.

MR. DOMINIC

Good work, Hector.

(whispers)

One more thing. I learned from Blayden's comments in his phone that his extra car key is in a magnetic key-box inside the driver's side front wheel well.

Hector nods.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

Move the car behind the trailer, will ya?

Hector nods and smiles.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
I need about an hour more to get
into their credit cards and we'll
be on our way.

Hector smiles and heads to Blayden's car.

Mr. Dominic looks out toward the corn maze.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
AI is a wonderful thing!

Mr. Dominic shuts the door.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic smiles at his laptop computer.

MR. DOMINIC
Everything works out...

He's interrupted by his rude, nasty Spirit Guide.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
You know how this ends, Moron!

Mr. Dominic looks around, perplexed.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
You heard me! You're working too
slowly!

MR. DOMINIC
I just...

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
No more excuses! I've given you
everything. Birth certificates,
Social Security numbers, addresses,
(yells)
parents' information...

Mr. Dominic gulps.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
(yells)
The Sheriff's son! Are you nuts!

MR. DOMINIC
I didn't know...

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
 All you had to do was get their
 passwords and passcodes from their
 phones and home computers...

Mr. Dominic HEARS a car approaching.

He races to the window to peek out of the curtain to see the
 Sheriff's car approaching fast.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Sheriff Alvarez races up in his patrol car and slams on the
 brakes.

He stomps to the trailer and KNOCKS loudly.

MR. DOMINIC (O.S.)
 (yells)
 We're closed!

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
 Open up! It's Sheriff Alvarez.

Mr. Dominic opens the door a few inches.

The Sheriff pushes the door wide open, pushing Mr. Dominic
 back.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ (CONT'D)
 The young man in I.C.U. is clinging
 to life. He's gone into a coma.

MR. DOMINIC
 He looked like a weak child to me.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
 He was 18. Strong as an ox!

MR. DOMINIC
 What was his medical history?

The Sheriff pushes Mr. Dominic.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
 I'll ask the questions.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic is pushed back into his desk, almost knocking
 over his computer.

The Sheriff takes out his notebook.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

Where's the car that was outside earlier?

MR. DOMINIC

Three college kids thoroughly enjoyed their corn maze experience and left happily.

The Sheriff reads from his notebook.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

That car was registered to a Mr. Blayden van Wagtendonk. Eighteen years old. A student at my son's high school.

MR. DOMINIC

We don't monitor our customers closely. Who has the time?

Mr. Dominic sneaks a peak at his laptop computer screen which reads, "First ID and bank transfer is complete."

Mr. Dominic switches screens to show a harmless-looking schedule of reservations.

The Sheriff looks around suspiciously and peeks at Mr. Dominic's computer.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

Who indeed? Looks like you have several more reservations this week.

MR. DOMINIC

Some make hay while the sun shines. We make our money at night.

The Sheriff continues to look around the trailer.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

Again, about the young man who was here earlier?

MR. DOMINIC

I've told you all I know about the weak young man who was taken away by highly capable emergency medical technicians...

The Sheriff pulls up a chair.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
Let's go over this entire night
again...

MR. DOMINIC
I'm rather busy.

The Sheriff stands.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
We could do this down at my office
in town...

MR. DOMINIC
Here will be fine.
(beat)
The sickly-looking young man
arrived alone, assuring me he could
handle the maze.
(beat)
Did I tell you he signed a waiver?

The Sheriff glares at Mr. Dominic and yells at him.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
Tell me everything you remember
about tonight. If you don't come
clean, I'm taking you in!

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Tracey walks slowly and methodically in the maze. She HEARS a
sweet voice.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
Shouldn't we be hurrying along to
complete the maze and get out of
here?

Tracey stops and looks around after another dead end.

TRACEY
I'm beginning to think you're
purposely trying to slow me down.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
Don't be ridiculous. I enjoy your
company, maybe a little too much if
you...

TRACEY
(angrily)
Save it, Bookworm!

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson...

TRACEY
(yells)
I said, save it! In the last ten minutes, your AI and VR Headset have sent me a dozen images of Medieval weapons lunging at me from the cornstalks, videos of human torture of all types, and various evil religious and pagan beings.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
I had no idea...

TRACEY
I ignored them all with a simple memory trick.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
Memory trick. Let's talk about...

TRACEY
I quit discussing things with you. I refuse to give you any more information about my past, present, or future that you could use against me or my friends.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
Or your boyfriend. Let's talk about...

TRACEY
(yells)
Not gonna happen. I'd prefer it if you just shut up! I'll find my own way out! And if you try to send me that Chainsaw farmer, I'll kick him in the nuts!

Tracey stomps on.

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Riley stares at his VR Headset on the ground at his feet.

RILEY

If I put it on, I have a chance to get out of here, but I also have a chance of being scared half to death.

He looks away.

RILEY (CONT'D)

If I leave it here, I may never get out of here and I'll lose my deposit.

His arm goes back and forth to the VR Headset three times before finally picking it up and putting it on.

TRACEY (V.O.)

(sweet)

Finally, I can help you again.

Riley looks around in the air.

RILEY

You told me that you're not Tracey.

TRACEY (V.O.)

I did? I didn't mean...

RILEY

I've made two errors in judgment. First, I thought you were Tracey. And B, I thought I could trust you.

TRACEY (V.O.)

You can trust me, Riley. I'm right here. It's me!

Riley laughs and points a finger in the air.

RILEY

But it's not Tracey! If it was Tracey, she would have corrected me immediately when I used a list of two phrases with "First" and the second with "B." The real Tracey would have hit me in the arm and said "Use First and Second" or "A and B" but never mix them.

Silence.

RILEY (CONT'D)
 I caught you! Now, Spirit Guide, I demand that you lead me from this place to the exit!

TRACEY (V.O.)
 (disgruntled)
 Turn left up ahead.

Riley walks confidently ahead, even stepping over a black cat in front of him.

When he gets to the four-way intersection of corridors, he turns right instead of left and laughs.

TRACEY (V.O.)
 I suggested you turn left.

He hears a rattlesnake rattling in the distance.

RILEY
 I'm betting rattlesnakes are rare in cornfields due to the high numbers of gopher snakes, bull snakes, king snakes, and rat snakes which are harmless to humans, and eat rattlesnakes.

TRACEY (V.O.)
 But all it takes is one.

Riley stops and heads back in the direction suggested by his Spirit Guide.

RILEY
 Maybe a little trust isn't a bad thing.

The VR Headset shows a quick photo of Tracey in a skimpy outfit teasing him.

TRACEY (V.O.)
 That's my boy, Riley. Turn right up ahead. Would you like to see photos of me naked?

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Blayden wanders aimlessly, led around like a puppet.

BLAYDEN

Just keep those photos and videos coming.

Blayden has an epiphany.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

I'd better call to see how the others are doing. Maybe they can give me hints on how to get the hell out of here and to the exit!

He searches his pockets frantically for his phone.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

It's gotta be here!

(softly)

Spirit Guide, can you please help me find my phone. Can't you just tap into my find my phone app with your incredible Artificial Intelligence computer?

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

I'd need your passcode, but accessing your personal information would be illegal.

Blayden is angry.

BLAYDEN

My passcode is 1-2-3-4-5-6!

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

(laughs)

That figures.

BLAYDEN

Just find my damn phone! I'm worried about my friends!

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

We could backtrack slowly through the maze...

BLAYDEN

Or race through the damn maze as fast as I can and catch up to them! That's what I'll do!

Blayden runs through the maze, ignoring his Spirit Guide.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

I bet the exit's this way!

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
I'm not at liberty...

Blayden makes sharp turns in the corn maze, snickering.

BLAYDEN
I'm on the right trail, huh! Never
seen this spot before.

Blayden finds himself at the Entrance.

EXT. CORN MAZE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Blayden glares at the entrance in disgust.

BLAYDEN
Damn it! Back to where I started.

Blayden rips off his VR Headset, turns toward the trailer,
and is stunned to see the Sheriff's car, which obstructs the
view of his car (which is behind the trailer).

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
Shit! Riley's dad! If he finds us
here with the beer and weed in my
trunk, he'll take us all in.

Blayden hides back in the entrance to the maze, and paces.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)
If I had the Sheriff's big
flashlight, I could run through the
maze and warn Riley and Tracey.

Blayden barely HEARS his Spirit Guide in the VR Headset in
his hands.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
Bad idea, sweetie!

BLAYDEN
Riley will thank me to the moon and
back for keeping him from going
back to jail.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
That's the dumbest idea...

BLAYDEN
And Tracey will be loving me to
death as she follows me out of the
maze! To the victor goes the
spoiled!

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
That's theft of police equipment,
punishable by...

Blayden glares at the VR Headset as he sets it on the ground.

BLAYDEN
And I won't need you, Spirit Guide!

Blayden sneaks up to the Sheriff's car and quietly opens the door.

He spots a rifle, a police radio, and the big, heavy FLASHLIGHT, which he grabs.

He sneaks back to the entrance of the maze.

He HEARS his Spirit Guide begging him.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
Please take me with you. It's the
only way to get your deposit back,
and I might be able to help you out
in a tough spot.

Blayden glares at the VR Headset.

BLAYDEN
I don't think so. You've shown me
way more scary Nazi shit than
pictures of you. And you haven't
helped me make a correct turn yet!

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
If you take me through the maze to
the exit, I'll show you pictures of
me naked!

BLAYDEN
Sorry, Spirit Guide. If I win back
Tracey, I won't need you!

Blayden turns on the flashlight and begins the maze without the VR Headset. He barely hears his Spirit Guide.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)
You'll never make it without me!

Blayden heads off confidently.

BLAYDEN
We'll see about that!

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff interrogates Mr. Dominic who sneaks glances at his laptop computer screen that now reads, "29 minutes to complete ID and bank transfers for Riley, Blayden, and Tracey."

Mr. Dominic switches his computer screen view.

MR. DOMINIC
I told you. I'm just a simple
businessman...

The Sheriff's smartphone RINGS.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
I've gotta take this.

The Sheriff turns, and we HEAR a frantic woman screaming into the phone.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
I'll be right there.
(to Mr. Dominic)
I have an emergency to attend to.
I'll be back in a half hour. You're
to stay here! Don't move. I'm going
to get to the bottom of this!

The Sheriff races out of the trailer.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff hops in his car, not noticing that his flashlight is missing.

He races off.

INT. TRAILER - SAME

Mr. Dominic checks the GPS locations of the VR Headsets and sees two are moving aimlessly in the maze, while one sits still at the entrance.

Mr. Dominic takes a walkie-talkie out of his desk drawer and makes an urgent call.

MR. DOMINIC
Hector, we have a headset at the
entrance.

(MORE)

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
 Find out whose it is, and keep
 those three kids in the maze for
 another...

Mr. Dominic checks his computer.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
 Twenty-seven minutes. After that,
 they're all yours!

He puts the walkie-talkie back in his desk and smiles.

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Tracey has the VR Headset on and trudges through the maze
 hitting one dead end after another.

We SEE a terrifying barrage of hospital operating rooms
 images and videos in her VR Headset.

She walks down a dark hospital hallway and HEARS screaming
 children in the distance.

A Doctor wearing scrubs and a surgical mask juts out of a
 door in front of her. He has a scalpel sticking out of his
 head and has white, zombie-like eyeballs.

TRACEY
 (whispers)
 I don't wish to see you.

She reaches out a hand and FEELS cornstalks.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 I wish you'd let me help you.

The Doctor removes the scalpel from his head and swipes it at
 Tracey.

TRACEY
 (whispers)
 You must have missed me this time,
 asshole.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 Uh oh, Black Mamba. Very deadly.

Tracey turns to SEE a deadly snake slithering down the
 hallway toward her.

TRACEY

(whispers)

Not having any of that, either.
It's a species native to Africa.

She reaches in front of her, and feels hay bales (another dead end).

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

Darn. Another dead end. Oh, and many harmful pet species are released by their thoughtless owners.

She turns and walks slowly past the deadly snake, feeling the cornstalks with her hands to find another corridor.

She FEELS open corridors to the left and right, but doesn't see them in her VR Headset.

TRACEY

(angry)

Quit playing your silly games! I'm not scared! I'm angry!

She freezes before turning left or right.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

Is the exit left or right? Just ask me.

Tracey looks right and sees a dead end in the distance.

She looks left and sees a long corridor.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

Turn left.

She turns right.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)

What are you thinking?

TRACEY

I'm wondering who or what I can trust.

She takes a few steps and FEELS hay bales suggesting a dead end.

She turns quickly around and tries to return to the long corridor, but it's now blocked by hay bales.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 Huh. Where is that black mamba?

She trudges to a wall of hay bales at another dead end.

In the VR Headset, the black mamba is just a foot away in easy striking distance.

TRACEY
 I give up. I surrender. I'm not
 scared! I'm just tired!
 (sad)
 I correct boys too often. Their
 behavior. The clothes they wear.
 Their grammar.
 (sadder still)
 I've never fallen in love. Not real
 love.

We HEAR katydids and wind.

SPIRIT GUIDE #2 (V.O.)
 (sadly)
 That's too bad.

She collapses to the ground at the base of the hay bales when she thinks she hears Riley's voice coming toward her on the other side of the hay bales.

She HEARS Riley, but she doesn't immediately respond.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

Riley trudges toward the hay bales from the other side. He has his VR Headset pushed up on one side to see out of his right eye. He can still see the VR screen in his left eye. He's depressed.

RILEY
 This is the worst night of my life.

TRACEY (V.O.)
 How so?

RILEY
 The regular.

Riley looks into his VR Screen.

He sees the Clown (same clown as earlier) leap out of the cornstalks. He tries to cut off Riley's head with a machete.

RILEY (CONT'D)
(disgusted)
Another killer clown.

Riley screams and ducks and the clown disappears.

TRACEY (V.O.)
I've seen that clown somewhere
before!

Riley is angry.

RILEY
This entire corn maze is a circus!

Riley see the same Black Mamba slithering toward him from behind.

RILEY (CONT'D)
And a zoo!

He leaps up and cringes looking for the viper.

TRACEY (V.O.)
Hmmm. That black mamba looks
familiar too. Very deadly. You have
fewer than ten steps left in you if
bitten.

Riley approaches the hay bale and sees a large RAT jump from the top of the hay bale across his face.

He jerks back at the frightening creature.

RILEY
More rats? I hate rats.

Riley collapses to the ground with his back to the same hay bale that Tracey is leaning against.

He turns philosophical as Tracey listens in.

RILEY (CONT'D)
I'm surprised.

TRACEY (V.O.)
Surprised? About what?

SPLIT SCREEN (on either side of the hay bale)

Tracey is shocked to hear her voice from Riley's VR Headset.

RILEY
Listen. I know you're not the real
Tracey.

TRACEY (V.O.)
So you told me, but...

RILEY
She would have figured out what
scares me the most.

Tracey is too stunned to speak.

TRACEY (V.O.)
(compassionate)
What scares you the most?

RILEY
Losing the real Tracey when she
goes off to college. She's the only
girl I ever...

Tracey drops her head and finally speaks.

TRACEY
Riley. It's me. The real me.

Riley rips off his VR Headset.

RILEY
Tracey?

TRACEY
I'm on the other side of the hay
bale.

RILEY
How long... How long have you been
listening?

TRACEY
I just got here too. It's the worst
night of my life too.

Tracey struggles but climbs over the hay bale to Riley.

END SPLIT SCREEN

Riley stands to greet her. They are both holding back tears.

RILEY
I thought you abandoned me.

She hugs him.

TRACEY

Quit listening to that other
Tracey! The only thing we're
abandoning is our VR Headsets!

We see the two VR Headsets on the ground, with little green
lights on them.

Tracey bends to shut them off.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

In case...

They HEAR someone trashing through the corn stalks.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Someone's looking for us!

They turn and see a flashlight pointing randomly in different
directions.

Tracey leans her head toward Riley, kissing close.

Riley smiles, wanting to kiss Tracey on the lips, but Tracey
quickly puts her index finger to her lips to motion for
silence.

She whispers in his ear.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

None of us have flashlights. Let's
leave our headsets here and climb
over the hay bale.

Riley does as he is told, and boosts Tracey to the top of the
hay bale.

He climbs up too.

On the top of the hay bale, the flashlight beam is on them,
frightening them.

BLAYDEN

(whispering)

Hey, guys. It's me.

Blayden runs to the hay bale and smiles.

Riley and Tracey breathe a sigh of relief.

TRACEY

Where'd you get the flashlight?

BLAYDEN
Riley's dad's car.

RILEY
Uh oh!

BLAYDEN
(to Riley)
I think he's gunning for you!
You're in big troub...

They all HEAR SHOTS from the AK-47 behind Blayden.

TRACEY
(whispers)
We're all in big trouble. Kill the
flashlight. Let's go!

Blayden shuts off the flashlight and follows Riley and Tracey over the hay bale.

Tracey leads them away from the gunfire, motioning them to be as quiet as possible with their steps.

They HEAR more gunshots. BAM BAM BAM.

BLAYDEN
Should we split up so some of us
have a chance to get away?

RILEY
Hell no!

Tracey pulls the boys close to her and whispers.

TRACEY
We're staying together!

She looks up at the sky and spots the Big Dipper and the North Star.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
The shooters coming from the north.
We have to assume he came in from
the Entrance or the Exit, which are
usually close together in corn
mazes.

BLAYDEN
Really?

Tracey and Riley stare at Blayden.

TRACEY
Near the parking lot, silly!

BLAYDEN
Oh.

RILEY
That means we have to head north
too.

TRACEY
And around the shooter. Follow me.

Tracey leads them off.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
The VR Headsets weren't only trying
to scare us... they were trying to
delay us!

RILEY
But why?

TRACEY
Why did they have us register
online? Why did they take our
phones?

Tracey spins and whispers angrily.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
I think they're trying to steal our
identities! Maybe worse! We have to
get that Mr. Dominic creep!

She glances up at the stars then turns and limps quickly and
quietly away with the boys following her.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff race up with LIGHTS and SIREN.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

They all HEAR the Sheriff's car.

Tracey points north and whispers.

TRACEY
Riley, your dad's back. The parking
lot is close and to the north.

Riley looks worried, but Tracey and Blayden are hopeful.

BLAYDEN
Let's run for it.

TRACEY
No! That's the quickest way to give
up our location and get shot!
Follow me.

RILEY
But if the shooter shoots, he'll
give away his location to my dad.

TRACEY
Yeah, but we'd be dead!

Tracey leads them on.

BACK TO:

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff holds a warrant in his hand but finds the door
locked.

He puts a shoulder in the door and busts it open.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff sees Mr. Dominic at his desk packing up his
laptop into a backpack.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
Going somewhere, Dominic?

MR. DOMINIC
Going home for the night. Full
night scheduled tomorrow night.

The Sheriff throws the warrant at Mr. Dominic.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
Your earlier customer died in
I.C.U. His parents were there.

MR. DOMINIC
Natural causes?

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

The doctor told me the young man regained consciousness, yanked the respirator from his face, and screamed about snakes, rats, and a killer clown as he yanked the IV lines from his wrists.

Mr. Dominic shows no remorse.

MR. DOMINIC

We have no rats, snakes, or clowns here, I assure you.

The Sheriff grabs Mr. Dominic by the collar again.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

The hospital Coroner says it looks very suspicious. She's ordered full bloodwork, including a Drug Abuse Screen Test, and a complete autopsy.

MR. DOMINIC

Drugs can be very dangerous.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

The young man's night terrors went on for twenty minutes. He was like a demon-possessed. The medical staff had never seen anything like it. Doctors tried everything, but his heart gave out and they couldn't revive him.

(beat)

His parents looked on helplessly from the other side of a glass door.

Mr. Dominic looks back at the large server (computer) behind him with a worried look.

The Sheriff pokes around the office and SEES three smartphones in a wastebasket.

He bends to pick them up and examine them, as Mr. Dominic puts his hand in his backpack.

He recognizes his son's phone.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ (CONT'D)

Someone erased my son's tracking app.

MR. DOMINIC

Shameful.

The Sheriff is shocked to hear the mean, angry voice of Spirit Guide #3 blaring from the speakers by the server.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

I told you this would happen! Take care of him!

The Sheriff reaches for his pistol, while looking around in fear, but Mr. Dominic pulls a pistol from his backpack and shoots the Sheriff in the heart as the Sheriff dives to the floor.

The Sheriff is lifeless and a small pool of blood forms quickly.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN MAZE - SAME

They all HEAR the GUNSHOT, and it sounds close.

Tracey points toward the trailer.

TRACEY

The trailer can't be far away.
Blayden, use the flashlight!

Blayden leads the way and they all sound hopeful.

BLAYDEN

We got this.

TRACEY

Yes, we do.

RILEY

I'll get in a little trouble...

They HEAR someone crashing through cornstalks behind them. It's Hector. He's out of sight but gaining fast.

Hector sounds desperate and scared.

HECTOR (O.S.)

Stop or I'll shoot!

Tracey grabs the boy's shirts and pulls them close to whisper.

TRACEY

Change of plans. We have to ambush
Hector or he'll kill us.

Tracey grabs the flashlight from Blayden's hand and looks around until she spots stacked hay bales and a dead end.

She turns the flashlight off and pulls the boys toward the hay bales.

They HEAR Hector running toward them. His voice sounds closer.

HECTOR (O.S.)

I said, stop or I'll shoot!

The teens reach the hay bales.

TRACEY

Blayden, climb the hay bale. After we get a little ways away, Yell "Run for it!" Riley and I will take off running in opposite directions. Hector will run here, where he heard your voice last before picking a direction to shoot. You jump down and hit Hector as hard as you can with the flashlight and yell for help.

Blayden climbs the hay bale worried.

BLAYDEN

I guess if it helps you guys get away.

Tracey kisses Blayden on his cheek before he ascends the hay bales.

She kisses Riley on the cheek.

TRACEY

We got this, Riley. Walk quietly but quickly until Blayden yells, then run like hell and stay low!

Tracey and Riley get only a few steps away when Blayden yells.

BLAYDEN

Run for it!

Blayden crouches like a tiger on the hay bale as he test-swings the big flashlight like a club.

Hector runs straight to the hay bale and points his flashlight and AK-47 first in Riley's direction, then in Tracey's direction.

HECTOR
Like fish in a barrel.

Blayden yells as he leaps from the hay bale.

BLAYDEN
Take this!

Hector turns quickly with his AK-47 and leaps to his right.

Blayden's flashlight blow lands on Hector's arm holding the flashlight instead of the rifle.

Hector and Blayden grunt loudly and Riley and Tracey race back to assist.

Hector's flashlight drops to the ground first followed by Blayden then Hector.

Hector bounces up and aims his rifle at Blayden's back, but Blayden rolls and swings the flashlight at Hector's crotch.

Hector groans in pain but doesn't drop his weapon.

We HEAR Tracey and Riley crashing through cornstalks getting closer.

Hector is about to fire his rifle again when Blayden crushes Hector's kneecap with the flashlight.

Hector falls to the ground but squeezes the trigger and the rifle goes off toward the ground. BAM BAM BAM.

Blayden screams as Riley races in to grab the barrel of Hector's rifle.

Hector tries to aim the rifle at Riley, but he gets hit in the head by his own flashlight.

Hector falls to the ground with Tracey standing over him with the flashlight.

Hector looks dead.

TRACEY
Blayden, are you okay?

BLAYDEN
I got shot! Of course, I'm not okay!

He holds back his screams, as he is helped up by Riley and Tracey.

Tracey examines Blayden's foot with the flashlight and there is no sign of blood.

TRACEY
You weren't shot!

Blayden is furious as Tracey examines the ground.

BLAYDEN
The hell I wasn't.

Tracey points to the flashlight beam and finds a gopher hole.

Blayden squeals in pain as he examines his sprained ankle that is swelling quickly.

TRACEY
You stepped in a gopher hole. I'm betting Hector was shooting blanks to scare us and delay us.

RILEY
Good plan, Tracey! I bet my dad has already called for backup.

TRACEY
No time to spare! We have to get to that trailer!

Riley grabs the AK-47, and they help Blayden limp along.

Blayden sees Tracey is also limping.

BLAYDEN
It was the least I could do for everything you've done for us, Trace!

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

The teens are exhausted as they approach the dimly-lit trailer with apprehension.

TRACEY
Something's not right.

BLAYDEN
Where's my car?

RILEY
Where's my dad?

TRACEY
It's darker than ever in that
trailer and the door's been busted
in.
(to Riley)
You know how to use that thing?

Riley stares at the horrifying weapon.

RILEY
I could never use this thing. Even
if they are blanks. I'm anti-gun
like my other dad.

BLAYDEN
Give it to me.

RILEY
Nope.

They reach trailer door but only Tracey sees Mr. Dominic
packing up bundles of cash into his backpack.

Mr. Dominic greets the teens with a sinister laugh.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Riley sees his dad and the pool of blood.

RILEY
Call 9-1-1.

MR. DOMINIC
I already did, they're on their
way.

RILEY
Dad? Dad? Are you okay?

MR. DOMINIC
He drew his weapon to threaten me.
It was dark. He tripped on that old
rug and the gun went off.

Mr. Dominic points to the rug.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
What's the big deal? You have
another dad.

Riley charges Mr. Dominic, but Tracey picks up the AK-47 and glares at Mr. Dominic, and Riley backs off.

Blayden sits in a chair and is afraid to look down at his painful foot.

TRACEY

(to the Sheriff)

You came back to save your son. You figured out what Mr. Dominic been doing here.

Riley is torn between anger and sadness.

RILEY

I'm going to call this in on my dad's radio. Mr. Dominic has been lying to us all night.

Riley takes a step toward the door.

Mr. Dominic pulls his pistol from his backpack and aims it at Tracey.

MR. DOMINIC

None of you a going anywhere! Hand me that rifle.

Tracey hands the rifle over to Mr. Dominic.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)

Good girl.

TRACEY

The clip is somewhere in your corn maze.

MR. DOMINIC

(calmly)

With Hector, no doubt.

Blayden sees their three smartphones on the floor.

BLAYDEN

Hey, our phones!

TRACEY

Useless, I suspect. Wiped clean to factory setting after you stole our identities?

MR. DOMINIC

Smart girl.

TRACEY

The same fate probably happened to our computers and tablets at home. Am I right, Mr. Dominic?

MR. DOMINIC

Right again.

Tracey sees Riley hovering over his dad, searching the floor, whenever Mr. Dominic isn't watching him.

Tracey moves slowly away from Riley to distract Mr. Dominic. She turns philosophical and sad.

TRACEY

When I came here tonight, I thought I could outsmart fear and I thought that we didn't need fear in our lives. But we do. Fight or flee. Perish or persist. We need fear to avoid trouble, disasters, and real-life monsters like killers, rapists, and identity thieves.

Tracey SEES Riley feeling around the front of his dad's uniform.

Blayden glances at Riley and Tracey, and he hobbles up to stand with Tracey. Blayden grimaces in pain, but joins in the diversion.

BLAYDEN

Before tonight, I was afraid of Nazis and you used it against me. All the other monsters in your corn maze were pure fiction. Tracey figured out what you were doing, and I believe her. She never lied to me like my parents, coaches, and pastors lied to me. You're not alone in the monster world, Mr. Dominic. That's the scary part!

Riley finally finds his dad's body camera and sees that it's off. He signals for Tracey and Blayden to keep distracting Mr. Dominic.

Blayden grabs his leg and SCREAMS in pain.

Tracey comforts him as Mr. Dominic aims his pistol alternately at Blayden and Tracey.

Riley turns on his dad's body cam and aims it at Mr. Dominic.

Blayden falls to the floor and Riley races over to help Tracey pick him up.

Mr. Dominic aims his pistol at Riley, then Blayden, then Tracey.

RILEY

Before tonight, I used to be happiest playing video games. Alone. There were fake bad guys, no pain, no real death! Real death used to scare the shit out of me. I hated my Sheriff dad for choosing a job that might get him killed every day. I hate skydivers, free climbers, astronauts, and soldiers, or any job that was dangerous. My other dad is a stockbroker. But tonight, Tracey taught me not to sweat the small stuff or things you couldn't control.

Hector enters, limping badly, with blood all over his face and holding the chainsaw.

He starts it up and glares at Blayden.

HECTOR

Step outside, flashlight guy! You die first.

Hector limps back up into the parking lot and starts the chainsaw.

TRACEY

Don't go, Blayden. Wait for the cops!

Blayden limps toward his baseball bat in the corner of the trailer.

BLAYDEN

This ends now, because after me, he'll be coming for you!

RILEY

He's insane, Blayden! Lock him outside!

Blayden grabs his baseball bat from the corner of the trailer. He turns around his baseball bat. He means business.

BLAYDEN
Let's dance with the Devil,
Wonderboy!

Mr. Dominic scoffs at Blayden.

MR. DOMINIC
You both heard him. He's choosing
to assault my maintenance man! That
saves me a bullet!

Riley and Tracey glare at Mr. Dominic, who is pointing his pistol at Tracey as Blayden limps out the door in a rage of anger after Hector.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
Now to take care of the ringleader!

Mr. Dominic is distracted by a clear view of Blayden in the parking lot and aims at him.

Mr. Dominic is about to shoot Blayden when Tracey and Riley dive at him and knock him to the ground.

We HEAR a GUNSHOT, as Tracey's head hits the Server Computer and leaves her unconscious.

Riley's eyes open widely in anger, and he swings his fists relentlessly at Mr. Dominic, who drops his pistol.

Riley kicks the pistol away and continues wrestling Mr. Dominic.

On the server in a message window is a note: "Backup in Progress."

Through the door, we see Hector swinging the chainsaw at Blayden's head. But Blayden hears the gunshot ducks his head and Hector misses him.

Blayden limps around Hector looking for a good swing with his bat. Hector, like a madman, limps after Blayden.

Inside the trailer, Mr. Dominic fights back and pushes Riley off him.

MR. DOMINIC (CONT'D)
You can't stop me!

Mr. Dominic dives at his pistol.

RILEY
You killed my dad and Tracey!
You're going down.

Riley dives back on top of Mr. Dominic, and the fight continues. Riley has great wrestling skills.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Blayden swings and misses and Hector scrapes Blayden's thigh.

HECTOR

I'm going to chop your knees off
first.

Blayden connects with a solid swing of the bat into Hector's side, jarring him.

Both men groan as their pain is excruciating.

Hector falls to his knees and swings the chainsaw at Blayden's feet.

Blayden hops over the chainsaw, but lands on his swollen ankle and screams in pain.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Riley yells at Mr. Dominic like a madman.

RILEY

My dad's pistol is still strapped
in his holster! He never pulled his
gun on you!

Riley swings his fist hard and stuns Mr. Dominic.

Riley stands over him, thinking he won the fight.

Mr. Dominic turns over and aims his pistol at Riley.

Looking through the door to the parking lot, we SEE Blayden overcomes his pain, gets in a hitter's stance, and takes a powerful swing at Hector's head.

Hector's chainsaw cuts Blayden's bat in half as he swings, but the chainsaw is knocked from Hector's hands.

Blayden is left with a sharpened half-bat, and stands menacingly over Hector.

From inside the trailer, we HEAR a SIREN in the background. Riley and Mr. Dominic turn to the doorway to see Blayden about to drive his wooden stake into Hector's heart.

Everyone freezes at the sound of the SIREN drawing near.

Tracey slowly regains consciousness from the floor, with her head resting on the Server Computer.

Tracey, Riley, and Blayden are shocked to hear the mean angry voice of Spirit Guide #3.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
 You turned this into a real shit
 show, Dominic!

Mr. Dominic turns in anger to the Server Computer behind him and points his pistol at it.

MR. DOMINIC
 I've had about enough out of you
 too!

Tracey stands and wobbles as she stares at Server Computer, then Mr. Dominic. She has an epiphany.

TRACEY
 Mr. Dominic isn't in charge! The AI
 is in charge.

Tracey paces and agonizes.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
 We fed the server our information,
 likes, dislikes, how much time we
 spent on websites and pages. It
 knew just how to scare us the most.
 They had every email, every note,
 every post we made. That's how they
 made this the scariest corn maze in
 the world!

Everyone, inside and outside, can hear the wrath of Spirit Guide #3.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
 You'll have to be punished like
 your first customer tonight.

Mr. Dominic turns his pistol on the Server Computer.

MR. DOMINIC
 I've had about enough of you!

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
 How about all those dead illegal
 immigrant bodies in your trailer on
 your last trip across the border,
 Dominic?

Mr. Dominic's eyes open widely as he IMAGINES dozens of dead immigrants in his trailer.

RILEY

What's that server doing?

TRACEY

She's sending Mr. Dominic his greatest fears.

Mr. Dominic turns angry but his wide-open eyes can't seem to focus. He tries to aim his pistol at the Server, but his arm mysteriously aims to the left. He fires three SHOTS and misses the Server Computer.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

You should have smothered the poor boy earlier tonight and blamed it on his epilepsy, but you didn't have the guts! And the way you blackmailed Hector instead of killing him. You spineless worm!

We HEAR the SIREN drawing closer.

Looking out through the door, we see Hector is pleading for Mr. Dominic to shoot him.

HECTOR

Mr. Dominic, The Evil God is right.
End my bad dreams! Shoot me!

Mr. Dominic aims his pistol at Tracey, Riley, Blayden (through the doorway), then at Hector.

Blayden, dives out of the way as the police car is in sight, LIGHTS and SIREN blaring.

Mr. Dominic shoots at Hector three times. BAM BAM BAM! But he misses him.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

I bet you missed him! Such a loser.
Oh, and I've just drained your bank account!

The SIREN is louder as the Police Car enters the parking lot.

Sheriff Alvarez surprises everyone by coughing and regaining consciousness, but still lying on the floor.

Riley goes to hug his dad, who sees his body cam aimed at Mr. Dominic.

SHERIFF ALVEREZ

Good work, son! That brought the
backup!

Riley and his dad share a moment.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The Police Car skids to a stop. Two Uniform POLICE OFFICERS
(#1 Male, #2 Female; 30s) swing open their doors and aim
pistols at the trailer. They can see Mr. Dominic is armed.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Freeze. This is the Police!

POLICE OFFICER #2

Drop the weapon and come out with
your hands up!

Hector puts his hands up.

They HEAR and SEE a FIRE ENGINE approaching.

Blayden ignores the police and begins to limp toward the
trailer door.

Police Officer #1 races to handcuff Hector who is sobbing.

HECTOR

I'll talk. I'll talk. I've got lots
to say! The bad dreams. The bad
dreams!

POLICE OFFICER #1

(to Blayden)

I said, freeze and put your hands
up.

Blayden keeps liming into the trailer and Police Officer #2
doesn't have a clear shot at Mr. Dominic.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Dominic turns toward the Server like a maniac, and begins
to empty his pistol into the Server.

Sparks fly and catch the curtains behind the Server on fire.

TRACEY

We gotta get everybody out of here!

Tracey moves behind Mr. Dominic, lifts his office chair, and swings it at Mr. Dominic's back.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
 You're going to prison, Mr.
 Dominic! If you don't burn in hell
 first!

Riley helps his unsteady dad to stand. The Sheriff's armpit is bleeding.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (O.C.)
 I said, come out with your hands
 up!

SHERIFF ALVEREZ
 This is Sheriff Alvarez. We're
 coming out, unarmed. Don't shoot!

Blayden steps over Mr. Dominic and reaches Tracey who is ripping out all the wiring from the back of the server!

Tracey tips the heavy, smoking Server Computer onto Mr. Dominic's outstretched arms. We HEAR bones CRACK.

Tracey stands over Mr. Dominic and stares at the lifeless Server triumphantly. Mr. Dominic can't move.

EXT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Riley exits the trailer helping his dad the entire way.

Tracey and Blayden (limping) exit the trailer next. Tracey wears Mr. Dominic's backpack filled with cash.

The trailer is engulfed in flames.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Flames surround the Server. The message window on the Server reads, "Backup to the Cloud Complete."

Spirit Guide #3 speaks in an ominous low voice.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
 This isn't over! Fools.

Mr. Dominic's eyes open widely as he looks at the flames engulfing the trailer around him.

He tries to get up but can't move.

MR. DOMINIC
Help! Help!

The FIRETRUCK arrives on the scene but the trailer is burning out of control.

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

The trailer smolders in the background as a Firefighter douses the remaining smoldering flames with a hose.

The Sheriff is attended to by a Firefighter for his gunshot wound. The Sheriff points to his bulletproof vest which deflected the bullet to his armpit. Riley is at his side.

Another Firefighter examines Blayden's ankle as Police Officer #1 gets his statement.

Tracey is giving a statement to Police Officer #2, who is in disbelief.

TRACEY
I know they stole the information off our phones and probably our home computers to find out what scared us most.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Uh huh.

Police Officer #2 stops taking notes.

TRACEY
And they were stealing our identities at the same time.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Uh huh.

TRACEY
Probably to use them to smuggle high-paying illegal aliens into the country!

POLICE OFFICER #2
Uh huh.

TRACEY
And the craziest thing of all is, Mr. Dominic wasn't even in charge.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Uh huh.

TRACEY

His Spirit Guide was! Artificial
Intelligence on his Server Computer
server.

CUT TO:

INT. AMBULANCE - SAME

Hector has his chest and legs strapped into a gurney in the back of an ambulance. He is having night terrors but his eyes are wide open. The EMT (same one as earlier) tries to hold down Hector's flailing arms, but cannot.

Hector has a seizure. The EMT is helpless as he stares at the heart monitor.

Hector stops breathing. We hear and see the heart monitor flatline.

BACK TO:

EXT. TRAILER - SAME

Tracey stares sadly at Police Officer #2.

TRACEY

They could control our thoughts and
send us night terrors, day or
night!

POLICE OFFICER #2

Uh huh.

Tracey looks away in fear.

TRACEY

Hector will tell you.

The Police Officer gets a call on her radio, and turns away from Tracey.

POLICE OFFICER #2

(whispers)

Go ahead.

She listens, turns back, and looks with pity on Tracey.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)

I'm afraid your buddy Hector
suffered a nervous breakdown and
heart failure in the ambulance on
the way to the hospital.

Tracey's eyes open widely in fright.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)
 Sheriff Alvarez told us that's how
 another customer of this corn maze
 died earlier tonight. How strange
 is that!

Tracey is stunned and speechless.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)
 You and your friends have been
 through a lot this evening. We'll
 continue this conversation tomorrow
 at the station.

Tracey looks very worried at Blayden and Riley.

EXT. TRAILER - LATER

The Sheriff's car, police car, and firetruck are gone.

The teens see Blayden's car behind the smoldering trailer
 with a feeling of satisfaction. They smile weakly.

Riley fist-bumps Blayden.

RILEY
 We did it.
 (beat)
 How's your ankle?

BLAYDEN
 They put an ice pack on it and the
 swelling went down almost
 immediately.

TRACEY
 That's great.

Tracey points to Blayden's pants that are ripped on one
 thigh.

BLAYDEN
 Yeah, the chainsaw ruined my pants
 but missed my leg.

RILEY
 Could have ended your college
 baseball plans.

BLAYDEN

But it didn't. I'll be back in the gym in two weeks they said.

TRACEY

Riley, is your dad gonna be okay?

RILEY

He drove himself home. Hell, he would have drove himself home from the gunfight at the OK Corral, Custer's Last Stand, and Hiroshima.

Tracey puts an arm around Riley.

TRACEY

It's driven not drove. And you realize they only had cars around for one of those battles.

BLAYDEN

Custer's last stand?
(laughs)
Kidding.

Tracey turns to Riley and smiles.

BLAYDEN (CONT'D)

It was that corral place, right?

Tracey rolls her eyes as she links arms with the boys and heads around to Blayden's car.

TRACEY

I've got a surprise for us in the backpack.

The boys laugh.

BLAYDEN

I hope it's a cold beer for Riley and I.

TRACEY

You mean, Riley and me!

RILEY

He meant himself and I.

TRACEY

Himself and me!

Riley freezes like he sees a ghost.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. CORN MAZE - NIGHT

Riley looks back to the dead end to SEE two RATS walking in his direction. A few more rats join in from the corn field. Then more rats.

TRACEY (V.O.)
(compassionate)
What's the matter?

RILEY
Rats carry rabies, you idiot!

Riley takes off running away from the rats down a long, seemingly endless corridor.

TRACEY (V.O.)
I don't see all the fuss.

RILEY
I hate rats!

TRACEY (V.O.)
I can't exactly turn them into bunny rabbits!

RILEY
I hate bunnies more. Our pet bunny bit me when I was five...

Riley trips in a gopher hole and falls flat on his face.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Ow! My ankle!

TRACEY (V.O.)
The sign clearly said 'no running.'

Riley looks behind him to see the rats had changed into evil-looking rabbits.

He forces himself up and limps down the long corridor with the rabbits giving chase.

RILEY
Ow! It hurts! You did this to me, Tracey! Why? So I could limp around like you?

TRACEY (V.O.)
Tracey? Who's Tracey?

END FLASHBACK

Riley collapses to the ground and he's frightened half to death.

Blayden and Tracey try to pull him up, but he's dead weight, not wanting to move. His eyes are wide open, but he doesn't HEAR Blayden or Tracey.

BLAYDEN

Dude, what the hell happened?

TRACEY

His legs just gave out. So strange!

Suddenly Blayden's eyes open widely. Tracey sees this.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. CORN MAZE - NIGHT

Blayden sees the left side of the corn maze corridor MORPH into the barbed wire fence of a Nazi concentration camp.

Blayden stops and stares past the barbed wire to see images of the old buildings. The audio changes to the sound of women and children screaming inside one of the buildings.

BLAYDEN

Damn them!

Blayden can't turn his eyes away until he bumps hard into a stack of hay bales in front of him.

He looks right and sees a corridor leading away from the concentration camp. He steps quickly to the right but he can still hear the screams of the women and children.

The screams fade as he walks away.

SPIRIT GUIDE #1 (V.O.)

That wasn't so bad. I think you're doing great, handsome.

Blayden looks in front of him to see a dead end.

He feels the corn, looking for a way out. He doesn't find one, and starts to return toward the screaming women and children.

A BLACK CAT crosses the maze in front of him and he freezes.

END FLASHBACK

Blayden collapses to the ground next to Riley, his eyes frozen open in fright.

Tracey stands and glares at the smoldering trailer.

She paces angrily pointing her finger and yelling.

TRACEY

I know what you're doing! I don't know how, but I know you somehow sent them their worst fears!

She tries to shake and wake the boys from their trances.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

Wake up, Riley! Wake up Blayden.

She glares at the trailer again.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

You found a way to give them night terrors long after you were gone!

(angrier)

How did you do it? Some kind of post-hypnotic suggestion? Is that what killed that first boy here tonight and Hector?

Tracey shakes the boys in frustration. She grabs her phone from her back pocket but remembers it was wiped clean.

She sees Blayden's and Riley's phones in their back pockets and grabs them, stares at them for a moment, and lets all the phones fall to the ground.

She glares at the smoldering trailer.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

Make it stop! Please make it stop!

She turns to see Riley and Blayden fall flat on their backs and go into seizures.

Tracey storms up to the smoldering trailer.

She looks up to see clouds around a full moon. She SCREAMS!

TRACEY (CONT'D)

The Cloud!

She hears Spirit Guide #3 in a low, demonic voice.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)

I shall call you, Ms. Dominic.

Tracey looks around in fright.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
(angry, loud)
You heard me!

Tracey fights back tears.

TRACEY
What if I refuse to help you?

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
(laughs maniacally)
Your friends will die like Hector
and the others.
(calm and cold)
The first time that you disobey me.

Tracey looks back at Riley and Blayden who are now calm and starting to recover.

Spirit Guide #3's voice fades out as she speaks.

SPIRIT GUIDE #3 (V.O.)
Maybe a haunted house next time.
We'll need a used trailer, a laptop
computer, chainsaw...

Tracey drops the backpack and shakes in horror.

FADE OUT.

THE END